

**From:** Larry J. Linder  
**To:** microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov  
**Date:** 12/9/01 11:34am  
**Subject:** Anti Trust - shake down continues

Dear Sir:

I own a small business that is a Engineering design development company that specializes in developing special software and hardware for industrial customers. There are several serious issues at hand.

1. From an outside prospective it looks like the Bush Administration and the DOJ have been bought off. Decision paid for and given. The first judge, Johnson, had it correct and had the correct decision.

Now I will tell you why we think he was correct. In Chronological order.

In the late 80 we were developing several new products based on the then current MicroSoft backed software. We went to the development conferences and listed as MicroSoft was preaching one one thing to independent developers and in side getting ready to blind side us with it new Windows release. Looking back the meeting were filled with miss information and down right lies.

As a result we have avoided developing any software that runs on a Microsoft platform. A bitter and costly lesson to us, such practices stifled the development of several medical applications.

Next product to be developed was a very advanced hearing aid that would offer an major technical leap forward in hearing aid technology. Because of our last experience with MicroSoft we decided to use OS/2 for this system. Microsoft pressured IBM to cease supporting OS/2 or they would cut off the availability of IBM to acquire Microsoft licensed software. They rolled over and died. This left us with years of development and thousands of dollars invested for nothing. That is how the monopolistic vices of Microsoft devastate the developer and hinder or keeps new products from the open market.

Microsofts bid to take over the internet and if you don't run a Microsoft OS the internet will be closed to you. Since the DOJ buy off we have seen an increasingly number of sites that you are denied access to. E-Mail that you cannot read because it has imbedded MicroSoft stuff that is not compatible with other systems.

At present if you follow your plan the internet will be 100 % Microsoft in as little as two years and certainly in 3 years. All other participants will be frozen out. This is not a prediction but a comment from an Microsoft insider engineer to engineer.

Why am I writing you is because of a threateningly phone call I received the other day from a Microsoft lawyer who asked to speak to the owner of the company. He asked us if we were using any Microsoft products and that if we were we could be a target for a Microsoft legal action if we didn't sign up to buy the new OS from Microsoft. This is the shake down. Fortunately we use Linux Red Had on our desk tops and Servers, told him that

and it was sort of the end of the conversation. He also indicated that it might interfere with our ability to purchase Microsoft products for use on some customer's systems.

At this point I told him that what we do in the business world is no business of Microsoft and the conversation was terminated. - Good By.

Other practices that have surfaced and we have documented.

We have been approached by the city where our business is located and asked if there is any alternative to breaking the Cities budget by upgrading to the new Microsoft OS. There is no such thing as a site license but they have to buy a new OS for every computer the City owns. We told them that if the DOJ maintains its present course then they should plan on putting a 250,000 line item in the budget for Microsoft. If the DOJ were to break up Microsoft then things would be different.

We have a customer who bought a new Dell computer that ran the new Microsoft OS and he decided that it didn't meet his performance need and wanted us to build him a special system that would meet his need for video editing. He wanted to use his current software and transfer it to his new system, format the old systems hard disk and put it on E-Bay. When we complied with his wishes we found that it would not finish booting because the BIOS was tied into the operating system and it would only run on his old system.

He was not informed or warned of this practice and had to buy another copy of the Microsoft OS to get his new system up and running even though he currently owned it. Hello MAFIA are you listening.

We are finding that Microsoft is pressuring processor builder to build in Microsoft only features that will make other systems slow or not compatible with the new processors. Once the compilers are Microsoft only they will literally own the whole computer industry. Just look at the ES processor from AMD.

What the DOJ needs to do. The internet must be powered by a federally mandated minimum set of software that is compliant with all OS's. The National Bureau of Standards is uniquely suited for this duty.

Microsoft should be prohibited from making deals with hardware vendors to customize everything to Microsoft specifications. Basically Microsoft as a minimum should be prevented from influencing hardware design.

The Microsoft OS and Application software must be separated and physically moved where one part is on the West coast and the other is on the East coast. All middle ware for the OS must be available to the whole community at the same time and not as it exists today where the Application developers have years of advance information and it becomes available only after Microsoft releases a new OS and immediately release a new business suite that is not backward compatible with anything including older Microsoft products.

Microsoft should be prohibited from giving any hardware and software to any institution. The hardware if given must be loaded with a non Microsoft OS

and applications. The implications of what the DOJ is planning or has agreed to only strengthens Microsoft's hand in controlling the entire US computer market.

The US government agencies should all use something other than Microsoft OS's as a start.

If the legal system fails the business and citizens and fails to break up Microsoft the future of the technical development of alternative systems and the free enterprise system that used to exist in the US will be gone. Once there is no alternative the US Citizen, City, State and Federal Government will be held hostage by Microsoft and when ever Bill Gates need some money he will upgrade the Microsoft monopoly and you will all pay or do without - there will be no alternative.

From a small business owner perspective. It looks like Bill Gates bought the present administration including the DOJ and several Judges.

Respectfully submitted

Larry J. Linder  
Principal Engineer - CEO  
MicroControls  
Xenia, Ohio